

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building
425 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, S.D. 57501-5070

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Summerside selected as new director

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Military and Veterans Affairs selected George W. Summerside as its new director of the Division of Veterans Affairs.

Summerside, who served in the Navy during the Vietnam era, has been the acting director since last April. For more than 22 years he has been involved in all aspects of service to veterans and their families including employment, education and benefit programs.

“George gained an extensive background in the operations and goals of our division,” said Maj. Gen. Steve Doohen, department secretary. “I am confident that he will work hard for South Dakota veterans.”

Summerside became a veteran’s field officer for the division in 1988. His district served 17 counties and five tribal reservations.

In 1994, he began working with veteran education programs where he approved and supervised “On-The-Job” training programs. He went on to become the “lead worker” until his appointment as director.

In 2004, he was instrumental in compiling a welcome home information booklet to support the extensive reintegration and readjustment programs for the newest veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The mission of the division is to serve all veterans, their dependents and survivors by assisting them in applying for veteran’s benefits. The division has two offices with a staff of 19 employees. The administrative office is located in the Soldiers and Sailors War Memorial Building at the State Capitol in Pierre and its claims office is located near the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Summerside graduated from Huron High School and from Huron University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services in 1985. While in college, he assisted the veterans’ representative at Job Service through the VA work study program.

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Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/GeorgeSummersidePhoto.jpg>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Mr. Roger Anderson, information officer, at (605) 391-8197.